

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 01189 270749Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 L-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-06
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 IGA-01 PM-03 CU-02 PRS-01 USIA-01
/046 W

-----270759Z 128148 /17

R 270705Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 1189

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BY, US
SUBJECT: BURUNDI CONCERN FOR U.S. REACTIONS TO REGIME ACTIONS

1. ISIDORE NYABOYA, THE AMERICAN EDUCATED MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS RATHER HURRIEDLY ARRANGED TO HAVE A DRINK WITH ME DECEMBER 23, THOUGH THE MEETING TURNED OUT TO HAVE NO EXPLICIT PURPOSE. IT WAS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN SENT BY PRESIDENT BAGAZA, A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND, TO SOUND ME OUT ON U.S. REACTION TO MEASURES TAKEN BY THE NEW REGIME.

2. NYABOYA FOLLOWED THE STANDARD LINE OF HOPING FOR BETTER U.S.-BURUNDI RELATIONSHIPS AND FOR A GROWING AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN BURUNDI'S DEVELOPMENT. I SAID THAT THE ONE MAJOR RESULT OF MY SEVERAL YEARS IN BURUNDI HAD BEEN AN END TO THE USG'S FORMER TENDENCY TO PUT BURUNDI IN SOME SPECIAL AND UNFAVORABLE CATEGORY, SEPARATE FROM OTHER SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NOW WE WERE STARTING AN AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI, CULTURAL EXCHANGES WERE TAKING PLACE, FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS WERE IN BUJUMBURA, AND DISCUSSIONS HAD GONE ON ABOUT DIFFERENCES ON MULTILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUES AT THE UN AND ELSEWHERE. I HOPED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY REVERSAL OF THIS DESIRABLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 01189 270749Z

TREND, AND THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS NOT GETTING MORE RESTRICTIVE, BUT IT HAD ORDERED THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TWO WEEKS AGO NOT RPT NOT TO INVITE ANY BURUNDIANS (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE) TO ANY FUNCTION WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH THE FONOFF. ALSO THE APPARENTLY IMPENDING APPOINTMENT OF EX-FONMIN SIMBANANIYE TO HEAD THE BURUNDI MISSION AT THE UN

COULD HARDLY IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A DIALOGUE.

3. NYABOYA APOLOGIZED FOR THE STUPIDITY OF THE REGULATION ABOUT INVITATIONS, WHICH DID INDEED RUN COUNTER TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSIONS OF OPENNESS. IF HE HAD NOT BEEN ABSENT FROM THE CABINET MEETING WHICH HAD APPROVED IT, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE SPOKEN UP TO POINT OUT ITS FOLLY. PERHAPS IT COULD STILL BE MODIFIED. AS FOR SIMBANANIYE, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. UNDOUBTEDLY HIS ASSIGNMENT TO A BLOCK COUNTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ALL AROUND, BUT THAT HAD SEEMINGLY NOT BEEN POSSIBLE.

4. I ASKED WHETHER RUMORS ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN BAGAZA AND PRIMIN NZAMBIMANA HAD SOME SUBSTANCE. NYABOYA CONFIRMED THIS AND CLAIMED IT WAS MOSTLY DUE TO SIMBANANIYE, WHO EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER NZAMBIMANA (SINCE THEY BOTH CAME FROM THE OLD MATANA CLIQUE IN BURURI). MOREOVER, SIMBANANIYE WAS BEING VERY ACTIVE IN BUJUMBURA POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND IT WOULD BE A SERVICE TO GOOD GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE LOCAL SCENE.

5. COMMENT: AS NYABOYA IS A CONFIDANT OF THE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS QUITE PRO-AMERICAN, I MAY TAKE HIM UP OCCASIONALLY ON HIS OFFER TO DROP IN AT HIS HOUSE AT ANY TIME. AS I NOTED IN BUJUMBURA 1176, I DO NOT RPT NOT THINK THAT BAGAZA AND NZAMBIMANA ARE LIKELY TO TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER NOW, AS WAS SUGGESTED BY CURRENT BURUNDI UN REP MIKANAGU IN USUN 6240, BUT THERE IS TENSION BETWEEN THEM. SIMBANANIYE IS APPARENTLY USING ALL OF HIS IMPRESSIVE INTELLIGENCE AND MAJOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 01189 270749Z

TALENT FOR INTRIGUE BOTH TO BOLSTER NZAMBIMANA AND TO RE-ESTABLISH HIS OWN ASCENDANCY IN THE MATANA GROUP. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO GET SIMBANANIYE ABROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN TO NEW YORK, UNLESS (AS BAGAZA MAY BE HOPING) SIMBANANIYE CAN BE EFFECTIVELY DIS-CREDITED BEFOREHAND FOR SOLIDLY DOCUMENTED PAST CORRUPTION. MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB01189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760472-0690
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761211/aaaaaiyl.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURUNDI CONCERN FOR U.S. REACTIONS TO REGIME ACTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006